

# FOR PROBE OF LABOR TROUBLES

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

WASHINGTON, Sept. 20.—Labor troubles on the Pacific coast and in the western mountain states will be investigated by a special commission, headed by Secretary Wilson, appointed today by President Wilson to represent him personally.

The commission will leave soon and probably will spend several weeks in the west conferring with labor leaders, employers, L. W. W. agents, state governors and others who can shed light on past disagreements, or exert influence for future industrial harmony. The president, in his announcement, said he is anxious to learn the truth of the charges of injustice made by employers and labor men against each other and to work out some fair basis for avoiding the interference of labor disputes with industry during the war. In addition to the strikes in the Pacific coast shipbuilding plants, it is understood special attention will be given to charges of American Federation of Labor officials that employers in Arizona have encouraged and even financed L. W. W. activities for the sake of discrediting the labor movement among miners and other employees. Recent deportations of workers also will be the subject of inquiry.

The following memorandum from the president for the secretary of labor was made public:

"I am very much interested in the labor situation in the mountain region and on the Pacific coast. I have listened with attention and concern to the numerous charges of misconduct and injustice that representatives both of employers and of employees have made against each other. I am not so much concerned, however, with the manner in which they have treated each other in the past as I am desirous of seeing some kind of working agreement arrived at for the future, particularly during the period of the war, on a basis that will be fair to all parties concerned.

"To assist in the accomplishment of that purpose, I have decided to appoint a commission to visit the localities where disagreements have been most frequent, as my personal representatives. This commission will consist of William B. Wilson, secretary of labor; Colonel J. P. Spangler of Pennsylvania; Verner Z. Reed of Colorado; John H. Walker of Illinois; and J. P. March of Washington. Mr. Frankfurter, of New York, will act as secretary of the commission.

"It will be the duty of the commission to visit in each instance the labor situation in the mountain region and on the Pacific coast, and to report to me the results of their investigation. They are there as the personal representatives of the president with a view to lending sympathetic counsel and aid to the state government in the development of a better understanding between laborers and employers and also themselves to deal with employers and employees in a conciliatory spirit, seek to compose differences and allay misunderstanding and in any way that may be open to them to show the active interest of the national government in furthering arrangements just to both sides.

"Wherever it is deemed advisable conferences of employers and employees should be called with the purpose of working out a mutual understanding between them which will insure the continued operation of the industry on conditions acceptable to both sides. The commission should also endeavor to learn the real causes for any discontent which may exist on either side, not by the formal process of public hearings, but by getting in touch with workmen and employers by the more informal process of personal conversation. I would be pleased to have the commission report to me from time to time such information as may require immediate attention."

## CONFERENCE CONTINUED

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 20.—Conferees looking toward a settlement of the strike here of metal trades mechanics, who have been engaged in extensive ship building contracts for the government, were continued tonight. The men expressed themselves hopeful of reaching an agreement soon.

## SECOND LIBERTY

### AM CAMPAIGN TO LAST FOUR WEEKS

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

WASHINGTON, Sept. 20.—The second liberty loan campaign will last four weeks, beginning October 1 and closing October 27.

On Friday, October 24, will be celebrated a Liberty Day throughout the country, and arrangements will be made to hold patriotic meetings in every city, town and village.

Details of the second liberty loan, it was officially announced today, will be made public as soon as possible after congress disposes of the \$11,000,000,000 bond bill.

Preliminary contracts for ten million buttons for purchasers of the second offering of liberty bonds have been placed by the treasury department and deliveries are now being made to liberty loan committees of the various reserve districts.

The buttons will be called official "Badges of Honor." The border will be in red, the center in blue, with a bust of the statue of liberty and the inscription "I own a liberty bond," in white.

# COPPER PRICE FIXED TWENTY-THREE AND HALF CENTS POUND

## GOVERNMENT TO SELL SEED TO FARMERS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 20.—In inaugurating the department of agriculture's first undertaking for the sale of seed to farmers, as provided by the food production law, Secretary Houston today authorized the purchase of 25,000 bushels of seed corn in northern Texas for sale to farmers in the counties of that state where this year's crop failed. The seed will be bought at market prices and sold at cost plus expense of distribution. A department statement said it was believed the corn could be furnished the farmers at approximately \$3 a bushel.

# INVITE HELP OF LABOR TO AVOID WARTIME STRIKES

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., Sept. 20.—Co-operation of labor in assuring the government that this production of supplies will not be halted by strikes or lockouts during the war, was invited by American industry today in resolutions approved by the industrial relations section of the war convention here of American business men. The resolutions will be put before the full convention tomorrow.

The action was taken after a stirring speech by Secretary of Labor Wilson, who declared that the spirit of unrest among laboring men was due in large measure to the general impression that business has been making excessive profits in which labor has not shared. "Has it not ever occurred to you business men," Secretary Wilson asked, "that the story has gone forth that you are not patriotic; that you have been profiteering? And did it ever occur to you that the workingman has said to himself, he will insist on getting his share of the swag? My position is that there should be no swag. I have said to labor that this is no time to insist on union recognition and standards. But, I also want to say to you employers that this is no time to stand on your prejudices, no time to insist on profiteering. You should not take advantage of your position to insist on abnormal profits."

The attitude of industry towards labor as defined in the resolutions approved is as follows:

"That no attempt be made by business to change labor conditions and that labor make no effort to force union recognition or changes in standards.

"That there is no profiteering in business to give rise to labor unrest.

"That business recommended to the government creation of a government board representing labor, capital and the public to settle all major disputes and that the board's decisions be binding on both sides.

"That industry call on labor to co-operate in making it plain there will be no strikes or lockouts while adjustments are being made.

"That government employment agencies be developed and extended by congressional appropriation.

"That industry institute a study of conditions looking toward the alleviation of conditions during times of industrial depression.

"That business drawn, the resolutions in the opinion of some members of the conference sought to dictate to labor in demanding compulsory arbitration of disputes. This suggestion was opposed so vigorously but as the resolution was approved they left it to labor voluntarily to submit differences to the adjustment board that would be created.

The next bond issue may fail, said Professor W. A. Scott, of the University of Wisconsin, because of the failure of the people generally to realize their part of the government's financial responsibility.

The banks, Professor Scott said, are pressed to the limit of their resources to provide money to establish and run the industrial concerns the war has produced.

Frank O. Watts, of St. Louis, said: "The farmer is the one man whom no tax has reached. He is the real capitalist instead of the banker. In the last ten months of 1917, the farmer has made profits in excess of pre-war ten months of six and a half billion dollars. Yet no serious attempt has been made to tax him."

## CINCY LOSER EXHIBITION

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Sept. 20.—The Indianapolis American association team, winner of the pennant, defeated the Cincinnati National league team in an exhibition game here today, 5 to 4.

## COURT RULES OUT EVIDENCE IN THE AX MURDER TRIAL

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

RED OAK, Iowa, Sept. 20.—An attempt of counsel for the Rev. Lynn George J. Kelly, charged with the Villisca ax murders, to introduce testimony to place a knowledge of the crimes with a person other than the defendant, was overruled today by Judge Boyes, who ordered stricken from the record testimony of R. H. Thorpe.

Landers of Shenandoah, a resident of Villisca at the time of the murder, testified that on the night of the tragedy he and his wife passed the Moore home where it had occurred

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

WASHINGTON, Sept. 20.—Copper prices were fixed today at 23½ cents a pound, about three cents below the prevailing market by agreement between the government and leading copper producers, effective for four months.

Sales to the government, the public and the allies will be at this price. b. New York and producers agreed not to reduce wages now paid in the industry. They also pledge themselves to maintain maximum production and to prevent copper from falling into the hands of speculators.

Although the price is fixed under voluntary agreement between producers and the government's war industries board, with the president's approval, it was announced officially that under the executive war power, the proper departments of the government will be asked to take over the mines and plants of any producers who fail to conform to the arrangement and price.

Recent government purchases of copper for war purposes have been made under agreement to pay the price to be determined by the war industries board. Early in the war, when copper sold at about 36 cents, the government contracted for 45,000,000 pounds for the army and navy at 16-23, but future contracts will be at the new rate. The price agreed upon today was set after extensive investigation by the industrial relations section of the production costs by the federal trade commission. The commission's report was understood to have indicated that copper could be sold profitably at a much lower price than 23½ cents but in reaching its decision the war industries board, headed by Frank A. Scott, took into consideration that the price should not be pared down to the point where production would be discouraged or wages reduced.

Three important conditions were imposed by the board, said an announcement. "First, that the producers would not reduce the wages now being paid, second, that the operators would sell to the allies and to the public at the same price paid by the government and take the necessary measures, under the direction of the war industries board, for the distribution of copper to the allies and to the public, and third, that the operators pledge themselves to exert every effort to keep the production of copper at the maximum level possible under the circumstances. Without the wage stipulation, it was explained, present wages, the highest ever paid in the copper industry, would be reduced by the new under-market price.

"Within the last year," said the statement, "copper has sold as high as 35 cents per pound and the market price would now be higher than it is had it not been well known for some weeks that the government would fix the price."

"The principal copper producers throughout the country have evinced an admirable spirit and for weeks have promptly supplied every request of the government for copper without waiting for a decision as to whether to accept the price which the board should fix."

## MAYOR THOMPSON JUSTIFIED

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

CHICAGO, Sept. 20.—The city's legal department, in an opinion published tonight, justified Mayor Thompson in permitting the public meeting here recently of the People's Council of America for Democracy and Terms of Peace after Governor Lowden had forbidden the organization to hold meetings in the state. The opinion was approved by Samuel A. Ettelson, corporation counsel and was rendered, it was stated, at the request of Mayor Thompson. Its essence was that the mayor had acted legally in prohibiting any public meeting on the assumption that it was going to be an illegal one.

## GOVERNOR PREVENTS LYNCHING

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

RALEIGH, N. C., Sept. 21.—A mob of several hundred men attacked the jail here early today in an attempt to free a negro named Neville, accused of attacking the wife of a street car conductor, but before an entrance was effected, Governor Bickett and Adjutant General Young arrived. While the governor addressed the mob, a masked leader urged them to batter down the jail doors. Shots were fired before the officials arrived. Upon assurances of the governor that he would order a special term of court to try Neville the mob dispersed.

## BENEFIT MATCHES POSTPONED

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

ST. LOUIS, Sept. 20.—Rain today caused the postponement of the exhibition tennis matches between national stars for the benefit of the Red Cross. The scheduled matches at Kansas City Saturday and Sunday have been cancelled. The series of matches between Miss Molla Bjurstedt and Miss Mary K. Browne of Los Angeles, former women champion, will not be completed because of the illness of Miss Browne's father. Miss Browne won fifteen games and Miss Bjurstedt 11.

# SUGAR MEN CONCENTRATED EFFORT TO BREAK DEFENSES EAST TO YPRES STARTED BY BRITISH

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

WASHINGTON, Sept. 20.—Beet sugar producers in conference with the food administration today reached a unanimous agreement under which the stable retail price of sugar will be about eight cents a pound. They will sell to wholesalers at eastern refining points at 7½¢ a pound, cane basis, and the retail price, it was stated, would normally be not more than 3¢ higher. At the same time, the food administration announced that an internal committee, acting through the food administration, would try to induce the excess war profit figures from \$1,000,000,000 to \$1,250,000,000.

It was explained that the ways and means committee would try to induce the conferees to accept the larger figure, but should this fail high tax advocates declared they would carry the contest to the floor of the house. They said recent announcements that approximately \$2,500,000,000 more money will be needed this year than already provided make it certain that unless a start is made now to further increase taxes, the country will be swamped with bonds.

Details of the sugar distributing plan will be worked out by a food administration committee consisting of H. A. Bouquard, Detroit; E. C. Howe, Denver; W. J. Hanham, St. Francisco; S. H. Love, Salt Lake City; W. S. Petrick, Denver; S. W. Shinsinger, Huntington Beach, Cal.; and W. P. Turner, Detroit.

Inclusion of the big Cuban cane sugar producing interests in the allied distributing scheme will be discussed with the food administration tomorrow by the Cuban minister Dr. Manuel de Triunfo. Cuban participation in the plan is expected.

American cane sugar representatives, it is believed will take action similar to that of the beet sugar men within a week. Most cane producers already have agreed to a 7½¢ price or its equivalent, but this is not regarded as final unless the decision is unanimous. The objections of about ten per cent of the beet sugar men to the price were composed at a conference today.

The new sugar price will become effective in the west October 1, when the 1917 crop reaches the refineries and in the east about two weeks later. The present price of beet sugar to wholesalers is about 8½ cents a pound.

The beet sugar action on the part of the allied producers of the United States," said a food administration statement tonight, "demonstrates conclusively the value of this industry to the country in coming forward with new prices in a time when sugar naturally would be selling at much higher levels."

## WHEAT FED TO STOCK RATHER THAN SELL AT GOVERNMENT PRICE

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

OKLAHOMA CITY, Sept. 20.—The situation was brought to the attention of J. M. Aydelotte, chairman of the state council of defense, "While there is an apparent fallacy," Mr. Aydelotte said, "in feeding hogs wheat in Blaine county and holding 'wheatless days' in Oklahoma City, 100 miles away, there no chance of relieving the situation. This is a matter clearly within Mr. Hoover's jurisdiction."

While no reliable statistics are available, agricultural agents agree that approximately 60 per cent or 18,000,000 bushels of the 1917 wheat crop remains on Oklahoma farms.

The action of the farmers is due to a number of causes, chief of which is the scarcity of corn for feeding purposes, coupled with the fact that the farmer feels the government has placed an arbitrary price upon his product at a time when the law of supply and demand is in his favor, although at the same time fixing the prices of other articles for his consumption, the statement says.

"First, the farmer is fed to livestock to be fed to stock in Blaine and Woods counties has been received at this office," the statement continues, "in the form of reports from county agents. Very little corn has been raised in northwestern Oklahoma, with one county reporting a three per cent crop. "With corn worth \$2.25 a bushel and wheat bringing from \$1.80 to \$1.95 at the elevator, the farmers are using wheat for fattening hogs, their relative food values being almost identical. "In Woods county farmers are feeding wheat as the cheapest food they have. Little wheat will be sold until the price is raised, the county agents report. The government has not fixed the price of corn.

"According to these reports, the farmer who, be it understood, is as loyal as any other citizen and as anxious to help win the war, feels that he is being deprived of a righteous profit from his product while others are allowed to exact 'war profits' without governmental interference."

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# HOUSE DEMANDS MAY DELAY WAR TAX BILL

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

WASHINGTON, Sept. 20.—Unexpected demands of house members for a substantial increase in war profits taxes so complicated the contest over the war tax bill late today that final enactment of the measure early next week was doubtful.

Coincident with the adjournment of the conference a meeting of the house ways and means committee, which drew the original bill, was called for tomorrow to discuss the situation and some western and southern members of the committee announced they would demand an increase in the senate excess war profit figures from \$1,000,000,000 to \$1,250,000,000.

It was explained that the ways and means committee would try to induce the conferees to accept the larger figure, but should this fail high tax advocates declared they would carry the contest to the floor of the house.

They said recent announcements that approximately \$2,500,000,000 more money will be needed this year than already provided make it certain that unless a start is made now to further increase taxes, the country will be swamped with bonds.

## RIGALL DECLARES

### DISTRICT ATTORNEY PART TO FRAME UP

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 20.—F. E. Rigall, of Grayville, Ill., continuing his testimony in the trial of Frank C. Oxman, accused of having sought to bribe Rigall to give false testimony against Thomas J. Mooney under sentence of death for murder, implicated District Attorney Charles M. Fickert, and his chief assistant, Edward A. Cunha, in the alleged "frame up."

Rigall charged that Fickert had given him \$15 and that Cunha, after Rigall had complained that Oxman had failed to "come through" with a promised check for \$250 had asked him:

"There is no danger of you fellows falling out and spilling this thing, is there?"

Rigall had testified that Oxman promised him the money in return for perjured testimony against Mooney, whose conviction grew out of a bomb explosion here July 22, 1916, which killed ten persons.

Rigall showed letters and telegrams, purported to have been written by Oxman, inviting him to testify against Mooney.

"Why did you not submit these letters to the district attorney, to Bourke Cockran, counsel for Mooney, or to the judge?" asked Attorney Samuel M. Shurtliff, representing Oxman. "You knew Mooney was battling for his life. Why did you not submit that evidence to Edward A. Cunha, assistant district attorney, when you told him previous to Oxman's testimony that you would 'come clean'?"

"I did not exactly trust Cunha and was afraid of the others so I took the letters back home," the witness replied. Rigall admitted he had been convicted of selling spirituous liquors in 1914.

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# BREAK DEFENSES EAST TO YPRES STARTED BY BRITISH

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

Another concentrated effort by the British to break down the German defenses east of Ypres is under way. A British drive along a front of eight miles between the Ypres-Comines and the Ypres-Staden railways was started early Thursday morning. At nightfall the British commander reported the occupation of important positions, the capture of more than 2,000 prisoners and the infliction of heavy casualties on the Germans.

Heavy artillery preparation for days has been going on, with extensive raids in anticipation of a tremendous infantry assault and when the British left the trenches they were preceded by a row upon row of barrage fire, reaching into the German lines to a greater depth than on any previous occasion.

The Associated Press staff correspondent at the front declares that if the British maintain the positions to which they have advanced, "they will have accomplished one of the most remarkable and momentous achievements in recent months."

On the French front no important fighting is reported except a German attack southeast of Cerny which was checked by the French fire before the enemy reached the French lines and French attacks near Hill 344 and east of Samogneux, which broke down without success, according to the Berlin war office.

The Russians are determined to resist the attacks of the Teutonic allies on the Riga front. After a strong infantry attack of the Germans in the region east of Lemberg, Left troops in a counter attack drove the enemy back with heavy losses. In the Ocm region the Germans forced the Rurumians to abandon positions they had previously taken from the Teutons. In the Caucasus region battles between the Russians and the Kurds continue in a freezing temperature with the snow four feet deep in places.

Baron Rhonda, the British food controller, has made announcement that he intends to inaugurate a new food economy campaign, owing to a shortage in the world's supply of cereals, meats and fats. Baron Rhonda declared that if voluntary measures failed he would "have no compunction in putting the nation on compulsory rationing."

Peking dispatches say that the Chinese government is willing to send 300,000 troops to France if the entente powers approve. A Tokyo dispatch says Japan was sounded on this proposition and there are indications that Japan will not oppose such action.

## MANY PRISONERS TAKEN

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

LONDON, Sept. 20.—Two thousand prisoners have been captured by the British according to the official report tonight. The British are taking a great part in the battle and are carrying out a much more elaborate and co-ordinated offensive than on any previous occasion.

"Quite shortly after the opening of the attack," the report stated, "60 prisoners had come in; another reported over 50. It is reasonable to count upon a very considerable haul of prisoners. "Tanks were employed in limited numbers, for the ground does not favor their use, but some of these machines were seen by the airmen moving to the assistance of the infantry, where the latter were temporarily held up.

"The German attitude on this point might be tersely expressed this way: 'Germany considers Belgium too valuable a pawn to be exposed to jeopardy through an ill-timed or hasty move.'"

On the subject of international arbitration.

(Continued on Page Two)

# WATKIN NOT YET IN RECEIPT OF THE TEUTON PROPOSAL

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

ROME, Sept. 19.—Cardinal Gasparri, the papal secretary of state, tonight declared to the Associated Press that the reply of the central powers to Pope Benedict's peace proposals had not yet been received at the Vatican.

Cardinal Gasparri believes that the reply of the central powers was held up when Emperor William went to Riga and that it is not likely that it will reach the Vatican until next week.

Will Send Another Note

PAPAL SECRETARY OF STATE, Sept. 20.—The papal secretary of state, tonight declared to the Associated Press that the reply of the central powers to Pope Benedict's peace proposals had not yet been received at the Vatican.

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Will Not Be Specific

BERLIN, Wednesday, Sept. 19, (Via London, Sept. 20).—While the text of the German reply to Pope Benedict's peace proposal will not be announced before Saturday, the Berlin press and parliamentary circles concur in the prediction that the message will not contain specific declarations concerning Belgium.

The impression prevailing in well informed quarters is that the note will leave the subject of Belgium in abeyance.

The German attitude on this point might be tersely expressed this way: "Germany considers Belgium too valuable a pawn to be exposed to jeopardy through an ill-timed or hasty move."

On the subject of international arbitration.

(Continued on Page Two)

# Ferguson Still Refuses to Reveal Source of Loan

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

AUSTIN, Tex., Sept. 20.—Despite a large affirmative vote that he disclose to the senate high court of impeachment all the circumstances surrounding his borrowing of \$156,000 in currency this year, Governor James E. Ferguson this afternoon refused to do so.

The governor said he intended no disrespect to the court, which had voted 22 to 7 that he should answer a long series of questions propounded by M. M. Crane, counsel for the house board of managers.

"But," he added, "I believe honestly and candidly that I have the constitutional right to decline to furnish this information. I don't believe any court in the land will hold me guilty of contempt."

Following the governor's statement, Mr. Crane turned him over to W. A. Hanger for re-direct examination. After a few questions concerning the state university matter and the Temple State Bank, recess was taken until morning, with the prospect that all evidence will be in some time tomorrow.

If a recess is not taken over Saturday and Sunday the week-end probably will see the conclusion of the case.